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**Human Rights Council**
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Agenda item 10

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 28 September 2018

### 39/18. Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

*The Human Rights Council*,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to achieving international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of States under the Charter to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

*Recognizing* that the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to prevent human rights violations and to comply with their human rights obligations, for the benefit of all human beings,

*Bearing in mind* the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as stated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, and the provisions of Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 that aim to enable the Council to fulfil such a mandate,

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council on the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights and on the human rights of older persons,

*Bearing in mind* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

*Underscoring* that international human rights treaties prohibit discrimination on, inter alia, the basis of age, and that national legislation should adhere to the State's international obligations,

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses the need to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons, and in this regard recognizing the essential contribution that older men and women make to the functioning of societies and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

*Noting with appreciation* the contributions of international human rights bodies and mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, such as the special procedures and the universal periodic review, in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in accordance with States' human rights obligations,

*Recognizing* that older persons face a number of particular challenges in the enjoyment of their human rights that need to be addressed urgently, including in the areas of prevention of and protection against violence and abuse, social protection, food and housing, the right to work, equality and non-discrimination, access to justice, education, training, health support, long-term and palliative care, lifelong learning, participation and accessibility, and recognizing also that the discrimination older women experience is often multidimensional, with age discrimination compounding other forms of discrimination, and that technical cooperation and capacity-building, including through regional cooperation, can support and enhance States' efforts to address these challenges and to promote active and healthy ageing,

*Emphasizing* the importance of promoting inclusive, age-friendly communities and environments and of providing a range of support services that promote the dignity, autonomy and independence of older persons, to enable older persons to age in place, with due regard to individual preferences,

*Emphasizing also* that consultation with and the meaningful and effective participation of older persons and their organizations are essential in the formulation and adoption of legislation and policies, in particular those relating to their specific needs and concerns,

*Acknowledging* that States are encouraged to enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons,

*Reiterating* that one of the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner is to provide advisory services and technical assistance, at the request of the State concerned, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights, and to coordinate activities to promote and protect human rights throughout the United Nations system in accordance with the mandate of the Office,

*Appreciating* the important role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council and the Voluntary Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review in supporting States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of their human rights obligations and accepted universal periodic review recommendations, including those pertaining to the rights of older persons, which have contributed to tangible improvements in the situation of human rights on the ground,

*Noting with appreciation* the contributions of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review through their annual reports to the Human Rights Council, in particular on the components of technical cooperation and the identification of good practices,

*Welcoming* the work, and taking note with appreciation of the reports,[1] of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, whose mandate includes, inter alia, conducting, facilitating and supporting the provision of advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building and international cooperation in support of national efforts for the effective realization of the rights of older persons, and acknowledging the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing,

1. *Emphasizes* that the general debate under agenda item 10 is an essential platform for Members and observers of the Human Rights Council to share their visions and views to promote more effective technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and to share concrete experiences, challenges and information on assistance needed in the implementation of their human rights obligations and voluntary pledges and commitments, and of accepted universal periodic review recommendations, and their achievements and good practices in this area;

2. *Reiterates* that technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights continue to be based on consultations with and the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their needs, and the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and aim to make a concrete impact on the ground;

3. *Underscores* the need to strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the human rights of older persons;

4. *Reaffirms* that technical cooperation should remain an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society;

5. *Also reaffirms* the ongoing need for enhanced voluntary contributions to the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and encourages States to continue to make contributions to these funds, especially those who have not yet done so;

6. *Welcomes* the panel discussion held pursuant to its resolution 36/28 of 29 September 2017 at its thirty-eighth session on the theme "Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals: enhancing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building to contribute to the effective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", at which participants discussed the mutually reinforcing linkages between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, the role of the human rights treaty bodies in consolidating this two-way interaction, the need to maximize impact on the ground and ensure policy coherence at the national level, the need for capacity-building in the area of national statistical systems, and the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships among Governments, United Nations country teams and agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society;

7. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 18/18 of 29 September 2011, that the theme of the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10, to be held during its forty-first session, will be "Technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of the human rights of older persons";

8. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session to serve as a basis for the panel discussion, on the activities undertaken by the Office and relevant United Nations country teams and agencies, and regional organizations to support States' efforts to promote and protect the human rights of older persons and their autonomy and independence, and address implementation gaps in national legislation, policies and programmes, including where applicable those relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, income security, the promotion of active and healthy ageing, the use of assistive technology, access to information and lifelong learning, combating all forms of

[1] A/HRC/39/50 and Adds.1–2.

discrimination against older persons, paying particular attention to older women and supporting the full integration of older persons in society and access to care, health and support services for older persons in their communities;

9. *Calls upon* States, international human rights bodies and mechanisms, relevant international organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society to share best practices and to make use of the ideas and issues raised in the panel discussion to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and policy coherence of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts in the promotion and protection of the human rights, including the rights of older persons.

*41st meeting*
*28 September 2018*

[Adopted without a vote.]